

## Message Text

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ORIGIN OPIC-06

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DRAFTED BY OPIC/GC:MWISS

APPROVED BY EB/IFD/OIA:RJSMITH

EB/IFD/OIA:DSTEBBING

AF/W: JSEGARS (INFO)

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R 160128Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

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FOR AMBASSADOR FROM WISS

E.O. 11652:N.A.

TAGS: EFIN

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE CHROMITE INVESTMENT IN SIERRA LEONE

REF: FREETOWN 3162

1. GARBLE IN ADDRESS OF REFTEL CAUSED WEEK DELAY IN DELIVERY. DO NOT THINK THIS IS A RECURRENT PROBLEM WITH FREETOWN CABLES TO OPIC.

2. CURRENT STATUS OF INVESTMENT DECISIONS OF THREE MOST LIKELY U.S. INVESTORS IN SIERRA LEONEAN CHROMITE DEPOSITS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A) NEW JERSEY ZINC - THEY ARE PRESENTLY WAITING FOR THE SPECIAL EXCLUSIVE PROSPECTING LICENSE ("SEPL") TO BE GRANTED. ON DECEMBER 17, 1975 FRANK TYE PROVIDED NEW JERSEY ZINC'S SIERRA LEONEAN ATTORNEY WITH INFORMATION HE REQUESTED TO SUPPLEMENT THE APPLICATION. THE APPLICATION FOR THE SEPL REQUESTS COVERAGE FOR A 120 SQUARE MILE AREA

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WHICH INCLUDES THE FOUR FORMER CHROMITE WORKING AREAS. I

PRESUME THE PURPOSE OF THE MINISTER OF MINES' REQUEST FOR UPDATED INFO ON OTHER POTENTIAL INVESTORS IS TO AID HIM IN DETERMINING WHETHER TO GRANT THIS SEPL.

B). BETHLEHEM - B. GREEN HAS INFORMED ME THAT ALTHOUGH BETHLEHEM HAS AN INTEREST IN THE DEPOSIT, THEY HAVE NO PRESENT PLANS TO INVEST IN IT. REASONS GIVEN FOR LACK OF PRESENT PLANS FOR INVOLVEMENT ARE 1) NEW JERSEY ZINC'S PRIOR REQUEST FOR AN SEPL AND 2) BETHLEHEM'S OTHER COMMITMENTS. FYI: DECISION APPARENTLY LINKED TO CURRENT DECISION NOT TO DEVELOP BAGLA HILLS IRON ORE DEPOSITS. FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING BETHLEHEM'S INTENTIONS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM SAM SIMS, A SENIOR GEOLOGIST FOR BETHLEHEM, WHO WILL BE IN SIERRA LEONE NEXT WEEK WITH DICK KRUMM, A MINING ENGINEER FROM BETHLEHEM. THEY WILL BE IN SIERRA LEONE TO PRESENT DOCUMENTS TO RENEW THE BAGLA HILLS SEPL. RENEWED INTEREST IN IRON ORE EXPLORATION IN BAGLA HILLS MAY CHANGE THEIR PRESENT POSTURE ON CHROME. END FYI.

C) US STEEL - INTERNAL CONCENTRATION ON EVALUATION OF MIDTERM AND LONGTERM SUPPLIES OF IRON ORE HAVE DELAYED US STEEL'S DECISION. ALTHOUGH THEY PROFESS TO STILL BE INTERESTED IN CHROME IN SIERRA LEONE, THEY CANNOT SEND A GEOLOGIST FOR AT LEAST A FEW MONTHS. MID MANAGEMENT IS NOW DEVELOPING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HIGHER MANAGEMENT ON US STEEL'S FUTURE INVOLVEMENT IN SIERRA LEONE GENERALLY, INCLUDING BOTH IRON ORE AND CHROME.

3. OTHER FIRMS HAVE NOT INFORMED OPIC OF ANY NEW INITIATIVES SINCE PRIOR OPIC COMMUNICATION TO EMBASSY. THESE COMPANIES WILL INFORM OPIC OF ANY DEVELOPMENTS IN THEIR PLANS. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CHROMITE, MINERALS, INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES  
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**TAGS:** EFIN  
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